

***Amendments to the Drawings***

Please replace pending Figure 8 with the attached Replacement Sheet of Figure 8.

Figure 8 has been amended to provide English wording in place of the Japanese characters in the original Figure 8. Figure 8 as amended is attached as a Replacement Sheet, and is believed to contain no new matter.

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-7 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the only independent claim. Support for the claim amendments appear in the Specification as filed. (See, for example, paragraphs 108-118, 137-140, and 148-158 of the Specification). These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Objections to the Drawings***

The drawings were objected to because Figure 8 does not comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(2), since Figure 8 includes Japanese characters instead of the English alphabet. Figure 8 has been amended to provide English wording in place of the Japanese characters in the original Figure 8. Specifically, amended Figure 8 contains the English language terms "main clutch," "Lo clutch," and "Hi clutch" in place of their corresponding Japanese language terms. Figure 8 as amended is attached as a Replacement Sheet, and is believed to contain no new matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

***Objection to the Claims***

Claims 5-7 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim. All multiple dependent claims have been amended to remove the multiple dependencies. In particular, claims 5 and 6 have been amended so as to depend only from a single claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request the objection be withdrawn, and that claims 5-7 be considered on the merits.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1, 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 63-43050 A ("the '050 reference"). Claims 1, 3 and 4 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP 1090798 A1 ("the '798 reference"). Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite "auxiliary transmission is configured such that its power transmission is cut out during a disengagement operation of said main clutch after said main clutch is completely disengaged, and its power transmission is restored during the engagement operation of said main clutch before said main clutch starts a power transmission." Neither the '050 reference nor the '798 reference disclose or suggest this feature. Neither the '050 reference nor the '798 reference provide an auxiliary transmission which has its power transmission cut out "*after* said main clutch is completely disengaged," as claimed. Nor does either the '050 reference or the '798 reference teach an auxiliary transmission which has its power transmission restored "*before* said main clutch starts a power transmission," as claimed. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 63-43050 A in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,003,391 to Kojima *et al.* ("Kojima"). Claim 2 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) being unpatentable over EP 1090798 A1 in view of the Kojima patent. Claim 2 depends from and adds features to claim 1. Kojima does not cure the deficiencies of the '050 reference nor the '798 reference, as noted above with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

***Other Matters***

The Examiner indicated that the specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicants assure the Examiner that it will make amendments to the specification to correct any errors of which Applicants may become aware.

***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for

allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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